

References: Gómez de Aizpúrua, C., 1988. *Biología y Morfología de las Orugas*. Tomo VI. MAPA, Madrid; Plant, C., 1993. *Larger Moths of the London Area*. London Natural History Society; Soria, S., 1987. *Lepidopteros Defoliadores de Quercus pyrenaica* Will. 1805, MAPA, Madrid.

– GARETH E. KING, 22 Stoney Meade, Slough SL1 2YL.

***Pediasia fascelinella* (Lep.: Pyralidae): two more Kentish examples**

Following the first county record of this species that came to my light at Dungeness on 3rd August 1990 (*Ent. Rec. J. Var.* **103**: 51-52), I can report two more specimens recorded in Kent during 1994. The first was taken by John Owen at Dymchurch on 2nd July, and the second was taken by myself at Dungeness on 30th July.

The nearest existing British colony of this pyralid is in Suffolk (Parsons, 1993. *A review of the scarce and threatened pyralid moths of Great Britain*), and as all three of the Kentish records have occurred out of habitat and with immigrant species, I would suggest the Continent as their most likely place of origin.— SEAN CLANCY, “Delhi” Cottage, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9NE.

Large Tortoiseshell butterfly, *Nymphalis polychloros* L. in Kent

During the early afternoon of Sunday 9th April 1995 Pamela Stafford and myself were exploring the old church at Elmsted in Kent when my attention was drawn to a dead Peacock butterfly in the central aisle.

Looking up at the windows we saw several more Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells, presumably attracted to the warmth and light. We carefully removed them to a warm, horizontal gravestone in the churchyard and within a short time most had become active and flown away.

Using a broom we gently coaxed the higher butterflies down from the window, and during this operation a large butterfly dropped to the floor, and slowly opened its wings. We were astonished to see the unmistakable wing pattern of a Large Tortoiseshell. After removal to the gravestone, it sunned itself for a little while, allowing us ample opportunity to examine it closely, and then, in good light, it strongly flew away.

In all, 25 Peacocks and six Small Tortoiseshells and, of course, the Large Tortoiseshell, were “rescued”.— PETER BURNES, 1 Hinton Close, West Park, Eltham, London SE9 4SE.

Unseasonal Lepidoptera records from Rothamsted Insect Survey light-traps

On 6.xii.1994 a single *Orthosia cerasi* Fabricius was caught in the RIS light-trap at Hamstreet, Kent (Site No. 472, O.S. grid ref. TR004 334) and o.i.e. *Cerastis rubricosa* Denis & Schiffermüller was caught at Rhandirmwyn, Dyfed (Site No. 346, OS grid ref: SN782 441). Both species usually fly in March and April. These extraordinarily early records probably result from